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Contact: Marty Uribes, Press Secretary (916) 445-6868

SENIOR SUMMIT HOSTED BY SENATOR SOTO FOCUSES ON HEALTH ISSUES AND NEW LEGISLATION FOR ELDERLY

Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante and California Patient Advocate Martin Gallegos Join Senator Soto to Discuss Senior Issues

Sacramento – Seniors will hear from representatives of California agencies on current legislation pertaining to Medi-Cal/HMO coverage, prescription drug benefits, and other Senior issues, at the 2nd annual Senior Summit hosted by Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona).

"There are so many services and programs available for Seniors," says Senator Soto. "I want to be sure they know how to access this information and use it to improve their quality of life."

During her tenure as a state legislator, Senator Soto has authored several bills on behalf of Seniors. Last year, the Governor signed SB 587, authored by Senator Soto. That new law prohibits a hospital from transferring patients to facilities that are not capable of handling the patient's medical condition. This year she is working on a bill that will prevent price gouging of residents of Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly.

Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante and California Patient Advocate Dr. Martin Gallegos will join Senator Soto at the Senior Summit.

"It is important that seniors on Medi-Care have access to this valuable and useful information that will be discussed at the summit," says Dr. Gallegos. "Seniors need to know they have somewhere to go to ask questions and get help."

Also joining Senator Soto are Lynda Terry, Director of the California Department of Aging; David Wilder, Senior Advocate and San Bernardino Senior Affairs Commission and Linda Carter, Manager of the 5th Street Senior Center.

Senator Soto encourages all Seniors from her district to attend. The summit will be held on Friday, July 19, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It will be held at the 5th Street Senior Center in San Bernardino.

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Capitol Office:
District Offices:

State Capitol, Room 4066 • Sacramento, CA 95814-4906 • (916) 445-6868 • Fax (916) 445-0128 822 N. Euclid Avenue, Suite A • Ontario, CA 91762 • (909) 984-7741 • Fax (909)984-6695 215 N. "D" Street, Suite 106 • San Bernardino, CA 92410 • (909) 381-3832 • Fax (909) 381-0739 505 S. Garey Avenue, Second Floor • Pomona, CA 91766 • (909) 469-9935 • Fax (909) 469-9206

Homepage: www.sen.ca.gov/soto • E-Mail: senator.soto@sen.ca.gov

